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Richmond Makes Case For Keeping Nursing School

Chancellor Tyrnza Richmond Wednesday, May 8, made it clear that North Carolina Central University's position to closing the NCCU Nursing Department doesn't mean a fight with Fayetteville State or Pembroke State Universities. But it is a fight to keep the NCCU program fully operational. Dr. Richmond stressed at a news conference the past achievements of the NCCU Nursing department and his conviction that the proposal by the University of North Carolina General Administration is a disaster for North Carolina's minority students. Following is the text of Dr. Richmond's prepared statement which he prefaced with a quote from the Report to the Governors (1989) of the Baccalaureate Nursing Education in the University of North Carolina of Consultants:

"Concerning the programs at North Carolina Central, North Carolina A&T, and Winston-Salem State, it is important to remember that the first Board admonition

was to improve the quality of the programs to insure higher passing rates. Among other things, this required significant changes in admission policies and other adjustments that clearly meant a drop in enrollment. The sound principle was that fewer graduates and higher passing rates were by far preferable over a large graduating class that included many students who could not pass the licensing examination. The Board's intent and expectation, of course, was that higher passing rates and improvements in the quality of the programs would add to their stature and that the enrollment decline would, in time, be substantially offset.

"In fact, the Board intent has been met to a significant degree."

Statement by Dr. T. R. Richmond,
Chancellor, North Carolina Central University
May 9, 1990, in its entirety:

The purposes of this news conference are, first, to make completely clear North Carolina Central University's position on the establishment of a new nursing program in the area around Fayetteville and Lumberton, and, second, to let you know what North Carolina Central University has requested of the UNC-General Administration with respect to its own nursing program.

North Carolina Central University is in full agreement with the need for a baccalaureate program in nursing to serve the southeast central area of North Carolina. We are not engaged in a battle with Fayetteville State University or Pembroke State University, nor do we intend to be drawn into one.

In a report released April 2, five consultants employed by the UNC system to provide advice on its nursing programs concluded that the southeast central region, which is served by Fayetteville State University and Pembroke State University, lacks sufficient access to programs leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The consultants did not find that there were no programs in the area to train nurses. The area is adequately served by Associate Degree and Diploma programs in nursing, but the registered nurses trained by those programs have no nearby program offering the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. For that reason, the General Administration proposal presented to the Educational Planning, Policies and Programs committee of the UNC Board of Governors in April recommended that a new program in that area enroll only Registered Nurses. The students in that program would not face the test normally called the nursing boards — more properly called the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. All would have passed that test before being admitted to the regional program.

North Carolina Central University has no opposition to the UNC system providing an opportunity to earn baccalaureate degrees to registered nurses in southeast central North Carolina. We do believe that it is folly not to enlist the assistance of the state's existing programs in developing such a program. The cost of establishing such a program from the ground up at Fayetteville State University would be high, and there is to the best of my knowledge no groundwork laid to determine the demand for such a program. NCCU would recommend that the UNC system follow the proposal of the five consultants and initiate this program as a cooperative program involving existing nursing programs. Parts of the area to be served are within an hour's drive of five of the UNC system school's — those at Wilmington, Greenville, Durham, Chapel Hill, and Charlotte. One or more of those programs could combine forces with Fayetteville State University and Pembroke to launch almost immediately a program offering baccalaureate opportunities to registered nurses in that area. UNC-Greensboro has shown that satellite programs can work; their satellite program in Hickory serves a Western Piedmont area which would otherwise be equally isolated from a baccalaureate nursing program.

Tomorrow (Thursday, May 10) afternoon at 3:30 the Educational Planning, Policies and Programs Committee meets for the first time since they heard the UNC General Administration's proposal on April 17. I believe they will learn at that time that I have asked President Spangler to reconsider the proposal to close the program at NCCU. I hope, of course, that he will announce that he is reconsidering that proposal, and ask that the committee defer action on his proposal until a later date.

Mr. Spangler, however, is clearly under pressure from some members of that committee to make a proposal similar in nature to the one he made April 17. When the five consultants presented their report on April 2, a member-emeritus of the Board of Governors and the Committee, Mr. William Johnson, expressed disappointment that the proposal did not recommend closing one or more of the system's nursing programs. Although Mr. Johnson has no vote on the committee or the board, as a past chairman of the Board of Governors his voice does carry considerable weight. Accordingly, I shall not be surprised if the Educational Planning, Policies and Programs committee does seek to continue with the proposal which has been placed before it, even in the face of my opposition, the opposition of a host of the leaders of our Research Triangle community, and petitions from NCCU students, alumni, and friends from all over the state and even outside the state. I have asked President Spangler to seek an opportunity for me to appear before the full Board of Governors to express my opposition to the closing of NCCU's nursing program.

NCCU has been offering some form of advanced training for nurses since just after the end of World War II. Initially, that training was specifically in the area of public health nursing. The post-War era saw tremendous advances in the health of the American people, and in large part that was due to the public health nurses whose task it was to carry modern health care into the remotest rural areas of what was then still a rural nation. NCCU played a role in that achievement.

For most of the period between the mid-40s and mid-50s, NCCU offered a one year certificate program in public health nursing, although for at least one year our catalog listed a master's program in public health nursing. Beginning in the 1950s, with a growing need for bachelor's degree programs in nursing to provide a solid academic foundation to clinically-trained registered nurses, NCCU offered the bachelor of science in nursing degree to students who had already completed their clinical training. Our 1969-70 catalog announced the creation of a basic program in nursing, which offered high school graduates the opportunity to complete their full training in nursing at NCCU, earning a bachelor's degree. Our separate program for registered nurses was phased out in the following semester, 1970-71, at which time we began to offer registered nurses the opportunity to challenge up to five of the clinical courses in nursing.

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KALAPANA, HAWAII — Volunteers work from throughout the night to load the Star of the Sea Painted Church on to a truck in hopes of moving the historic church before lava from the Kilauea volcano moves in. Over 130 structures have been lost to the lava so far. (UPI Photo)



Steam rises as lava from the Kilauea volcano meets the Pacific Ocean before sunset. The lava consumed 139 homes and structures on its way to the water. (UPI Photo)

NCARRV Groups Urge Action On Police Killings, Excessive Force

Representatives from families and communities where police have used deadly force in the past two years held a press conference recently in Raleigh with North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence to urge action on what the organization called an "escalating pattern of violence between law enforcement and North Carolina citizens."

"The perception by law enforcement that citizens have increasingly little respect for law and thus are more likely to resist arrest matched with a perception by citizens, especially in minority communities, that law enforcement officers are becoming more violent, can only lead to an increase in violence between citizens and police," said Christina Davis-McCoy, coordinator of North Carolinians Against Racial and Religious Violence. "This cycle needs to be broken immediately by action at the state and federal level," said McCoy.

NCARRV issued a report on police use of deadly force in North Carolina, citing six killings of black men by law enforcement in thirteen months — cases in Goldsboro on February 1, 1989, in Wilmington on February 9, 1989, two in Charlotte in 1989, one in Sampson County on October 15, 1989, and most recently a shooting in Bolton on February 27, 1990.

Two of these were by Highway Patrol Troopers, the others were by city police officers. The report also noted the death on March 31, 1990, in Caldwell County of a 31-year old white man, also shot by a State Trooper. According to the State Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, there have been four fatal shootings by Troopers in the past year, and eight altogether since 1983. Highway Patrol spokesman

William Cannell has pointed to "less respect for the law" as the reason for this increase in recent statements to the press.

Mab Segrest, director of Research and Publications for NCARRV, said that her organization had recorded only six cases of police use of deadly force against minority men between 1985 and 1988 — an almost one hundred percent increase in 1989. "The Highway Patrol statistics point to a similar doubling in the past year," Segrest said. "I think we have to ask what is going on."

Segrest said that the Attorney General's office and the Police Information Network do not keep statistics on the number of citizens shot and/or killed by police only on the number of police shot by citizens — although Attorney General Thornburg has indicated he will begin keeping statistics on police deadly force. "When we asked a staff person in the Attorney General's office how many of the cases of police violence the SBI has investigated, he replied, 'we don't; keep our files that way'."

The NCARRV report covers the law on use of deadly force, police training, and civil remedies. "Investigations by District Attorneys, majority-white grand juries, and/or the State Bureau of Investigation — most of which are not given public disclosure — often appear to community people as a case of 'police taking care of police,'" commented the report. Segrest cited a report by the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Justice Department that called for screening and training of police for skills of negotiation rather than confrontation. "When was the last time the department recognized, formally or informally,

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News Briefs

U.S. TO SEEK RETRIAL
MEMPHIS, TENN. — Shortly after a jury reported last week that it was hopelessly deadlocked, the Assistant U.S. Attorney indicated that the government would seek a retrial of black Tennessee Congressman Harold Ford on charges of bank and mail fraud. However, Ford said he viewed the mistrial "as a victory."

The state's first black member of Congress also renewed his charge that the indictment against him was brought by racist prosecutors as part of a campaign by white conservatives to politically destroy prominent black politicians. Ford was accused of selling political favors by receiving loans which he never planned to repay from two prominent Tennessee bankers Jake and C.H. Butcher.

BLACK WOMAN NAMED TO HEAD UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
HOUSTON, TX. — A black woman - Marguerite Ross Barnett - was named last week to head the 32,000-student University of Houston making her one of the highest ranking female educators in the country.

Barnett is 47, author of five books and current chancellor of the University of Missouri - St. Louis.

BLACK WILL HEAD WHITE HOUSE PRESS ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sheridan Broadcasting Network reporter Bob Ellison last week became the first black to head the prestigious White House Correspondents Association. The association is composed of those reporters who cover the White House on a regular basis.

The 47-year-old Ellison said he sees the post as a "signal that the door to journalism for African-Americans and other minorities is ajar."

DRUG CZAR PROPOSAL SCARES MANY BLACKS

ORLANDO, FL. — The nation's drug policy director - William Bennett - in a little reported speech recently suggested children living in drug-infested neighborhoods be taken from their families and placed in orphanages. He was speaking before about 3,000 delegates to a world drug conference sponsored by the Atlanta-based Parent Resource Institute for Drug Education.

Since most drug infested neighborhoods are in black or minority communities, several at the conference viewed Bennett's remarks as a direct attack on the black family. One outraged delegate said, "The administration's war against drugs is failing. But instead of adopting a more workable policy, it proposes to destroy black families simply because they are poor and live in high crime areas."

It was unclear as to whether the Bennett proposal was just an idea or was administration policy.

PROMINENT RAP GROUP APPEARS TO ADOPT "CRESS THEORY" ON RACISM

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — The Rap music group "Public Enemy" has apparently adopted the "Cress Theory" on racism. The group's publicist has begun sending copies of the 15-page theory to record reviewers and radio stations as part of a promotion of its new album "Fear of a Black Planet."

The theory was authored in 1970 by Howard University psychiatrist Dr. Frances Cress-Welsing. In essence, the theory argues that white people are genetically inferior to blacks. This inferiority, says the theory, has produced among whites "a neurotic drive" to dominate other races.

"Public Enemy" says it hopes to hold public forums to expose the Cress Theory to a wider range of people.

WHITES ARM FOR POSSIBLE ATTACKS ON SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA — In recent weeks, South African whites have gone on a gun-buying spree in apparent preparation for what they believe will be an eventual armed showdown with the country's majority black population. Gun store owners say they are having trouble keeping up with the demand for guns.

On an even more ominous note, a group of whites broke into a government store house recently and stole heavy weapons such as bazookas and grenades. Meanwhile, the leader of one white supremacist group has openly warned blacks of possible attacks. Eugene TerreBlanche also said the majority of whites would never accept a black government in South Africa even though the country is 70% black. Whites have ruled South Africa for years under a racist system known as apartheid. But the system is gradually falling.

BLACK WOMEN CAPTURING BEAUTY TITLES

CHICAGO, ILL. — It has been a good year for black beauty contestants. Miss America Debye Turner is black. Miss USA Carole Gist is black. And it was announced that Playboy Magazine had selected its first black "Playmate of the Year." She is 21-year-old Renee Tenison of Boise, Idaho.

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